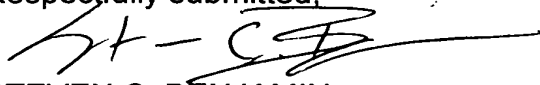


This contrasts with the method of the present invention which avoids the need to obtain paint color measurements from the vehicle. In the claimed method, the body shop needs only to gather the relevant VIN information and the factory (i.e., manufacturer's) paint code from the vehicle in question, as specified in the claims, and then input this information into the claimed method. There is no need to simultaneously input physical color readings (taken from the vehicle) into the claimed method. It is well understood that color readings can only be taken with expensive optical equipment (e.g., colorimeters) that must be placed in a body shop. Nowadays, only about 25% of the body shops even have such equipment. The method of the present invention achieves a color match for the vehicle's original finish that is correct a high percentage of the time, without the need for such expensive optical equipment. (See page 2, lines 10-22 of the instant specification).

The claimed invention clearly differs from Corrigan et al. Moreover, even the VIN portion of the Corrigan et al. process is different. While the Corrigan process parses the VIN for the vehicle's Production Sequence number (i.e., the last six characters), the present invention utilizes a different portion of the VIN to access the refinish paint formulas connected to the vehicle in question. Nowhere within the four corners of Corrigan et al. is there any indication as to how one would practically use Applicants' selected information (i.e., model year, assembly plant and manufacturer's paint code) to obtain a color match. In view of the forgoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102(e) rejection are respectfully submitted.

In summary, the patentable differences between Applicants' invention and the cited art have been set forth. No amendments were deemed necessary in view of the forgoing remarks. The application should now be in allowable form. If for some reason the application is not allowable, Applicants' attorney request a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss the case and any additional amendments to the claims that may be required to place the case in allowable form.

Respectfully submitted,

  
STEVEN C. BENJAMIN  
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS  
REGISTRATION NO. 36,087  
TELEPHONE: (302) 992-2236  
FACSIMILE: (302) 992-2533

Dated: 7-29-02